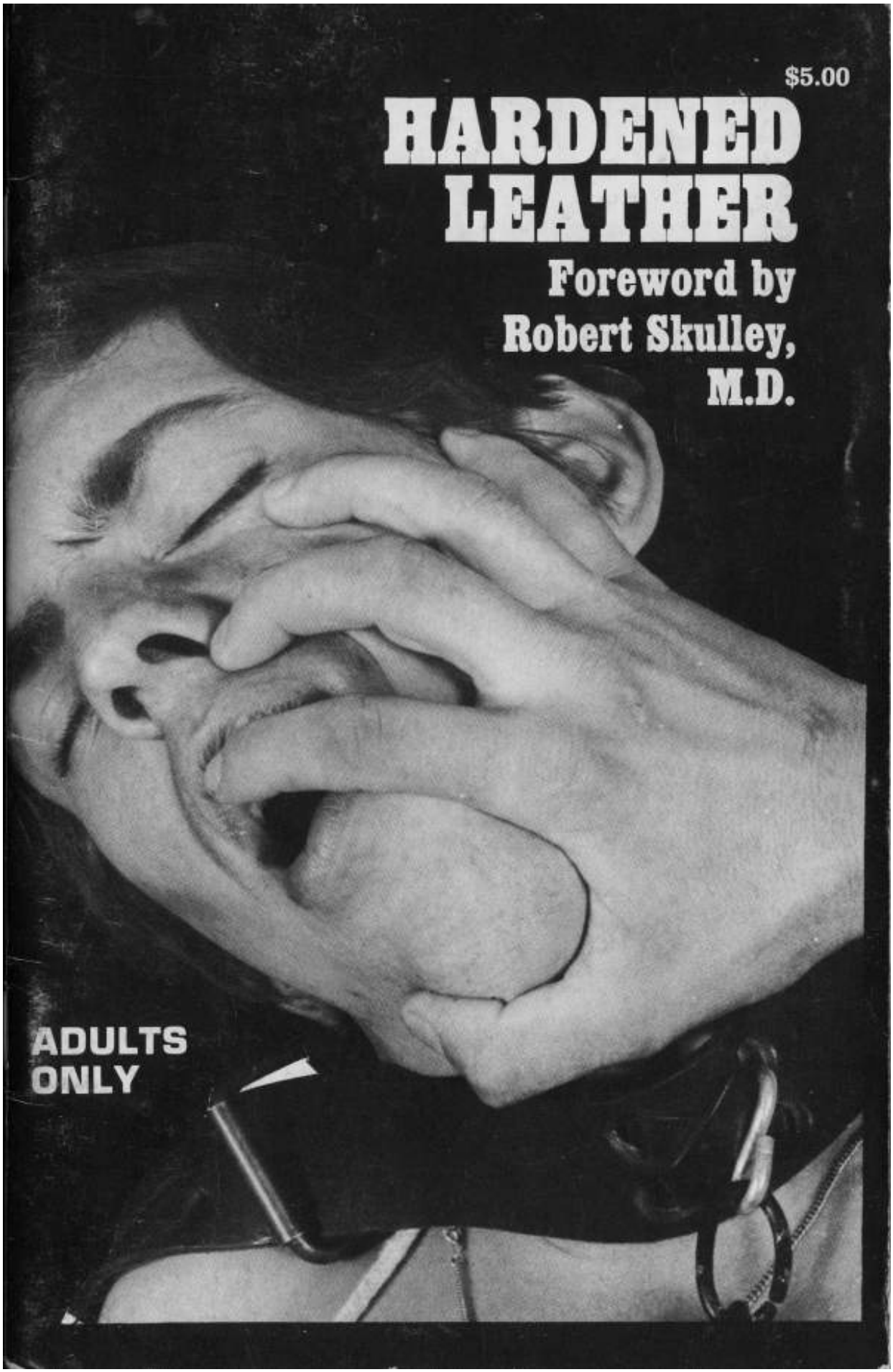
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HARDENED LEATHER
Foreword by Robert Skulley, M.D.
ADULTS ONLY

Foreword by

Robert Skulley, M.D.

The question of whether to dress or not to dress, what to wear or what not to wear and if the decision will be acceptable to the laws of the ruling society has been of major concern through the ages. Clothing, at first, was worn purely for comfort in cold weather. Then as primeval religiosity developed, or rather the concern with good and bad spirits, all orifices of the body were suspect as entrances for malignant forces. The eyes, ears, nose and mouth were considered under constant vigilance but the anal opening and the urethral canals of both men and women demanded utmost surveillance and protection.

The penis sheath, a snug fitting covering made from animal hide or perhaps a reed or tightly woven grass and attached by a thong to a waistband provided the earliest form of protection; the women wearing an apron-like device which covered their genitals. They feared the evil spirits as invaders in any form, from bugs and snakes to invisible air and water creatures.

During the centuries which followed, nudity was more or less common, depending upon the affluence of the people. Clothing took on the meaning of adornment and naturally, the richer the raiment, the greater was that person's station in life. Jewelry began as amulets and talismans before it developed into merely enhancing one's appearance or as a wise investment.

The poor, of course, could not afford the expensive materials and after leaving the wildernesses to settle in the cities, the primary source of skins for clothing was outside their realm, their hunting days being given up for a life of drudgery in the metropolises. Slaves were treated as less than beasts of burden and clothing them was done haphazardly. Among these poor unfortunates, modesty and decency were unknown as they were owned and completely subject to their master's every wish and whim, even to the point of death.

When the island kingdom of Crete, under the rule of King Minos, was undisputed ruler of that part of the world, costumes were very strange indeed. Everyone is familiar with the paintings and statues of that ancient world. The women of the ruling class were bare-breasted in their finery while the men, the strutting peacocks of that time, wore painted and enameled boots, gold and silver belts worked in intricate designs and full, voluminous cloaks, thrown back over their shoulders—and that's all—except for jewels and headdresses, their

genitals were proudly displayed, sometimes shaven and anointed with costly oils and perfumes. These slightly effete appearing Cretans were strong and powerful enough to exact yearly tribute from all of Hellas, including Athens–so the way a man dresses has never really given a clue as to his sexual proclivities or his maleness.

During the Grecian eras, the men wore short kilt-like skirts and stoles. Undergarments were unheard of. What with the morning exercises, nude; the Lyceum (or school) clothed or unclothed; the baths in the afternoon, nude; then the banquets and feasts, in any state of dress or undress, whichever they preferred, clothing was a matter of choice and the showing of a beautiful body unencumbered by drapery was the ultimate in artistic expression.

The Romans, likewise, were addicted to the short skirts, the mobility and comfort of these garments complementing their vast fighting forces. They were not as nude-minded as the Greeks but the Patrician matrons demanded that the famous gladiators of that blood-lusting, sadistically minded period of time fight to the death with their genitals completely exposed; perhaps the forerunner to the modern day matador who is required to wear no undergarments, not even a jock strap, under the tight, satin pants of his "suit of lights". The bullfight is supposed to symbolize the supreme maleness of the human animal over the bestial animal, whose maleness is always on complete display.

After the Greco-Roman eras came the grand courts of Europe. The male, at this time, stepped out in "second skin" tights and jerkins. Courts and audiences were glittering, lascivious and totally, sexually minded. The high-flown ideals of male love between the Greek heroes digressed to pure animal lusting. The daily comparison of who would wear the most revealing tights and show the hugest organs was the highlight of these bored, facetious gatherings; the winners being awarded their choice of commissions, titles and bed partners–even to the king (and/or queen).

Handsome youths and beautiful maidens were hand picked for their comeliness of face and figure; the boys with one extra point of requirement, an over average penis and the strength to wield it mightily on whomsoever desired it. To add to the titillation of the jaded crowd, an innovation was interjected; the cod piece. Not only were the men dressed in tight, revealing leotards–a pouch was attached to the crotch to delineate the organs from the rest of the body. Needless to say, those who couldn't fill the pouches abundantly with their own sexual apparati stuffed them until you

couldn't tell one stud from another. Many medieval paintings dwell on the cod piece; several world renowned Flemish paintings dealing with peasant type weddings have all the males depicted possessing gigantic erections. Most of these paintings have been withheld from public view; however, they are listed in all major art books; the publishing company blocking out the "offensive midsections".

At this particular time, English and French knights were addicted to the revealing "hose", as the tights were called, and had no compunction concerning genital display. To retaliate, Empress Josephine Bonaparte instigated the baring of the tops of women's bosoms, allowing them to lie on a reinforced shelf to the extent of exposing the rouged nipples to partial and tantalizing display. Thus originated the style of dress to become known as "empire", the low cut, high waisted gown.

From men's tights, we progress to the long, tight, clinging, still revealing soft trousers of eighteenth century England and our own glorious Southern aristocracy. Again, no attempt was made to conceal the shape and dimensions of the male organs. Somewhere between the Civil War and the second World War, men were reduced to sexless manikins, such as store-front dummies who were obviously smooth and unencumbered by anything so vile and despicable as a rumored appendage between the thighs. The area between the neck and the calves was forbidden territory, either male or female.

As luck would have it, in certain sports, abbreviated clothing was undeniable, such as swimming, gymnastics and track and field events. These changes were granted begrudgingly for the sake of the Olympiads. Bathing suits became increasingly scant as well as costumes for show business productions; circus performers and dancers were added to the circumspect list; then finally men were allowed to sunbathe in a pair of shorts, exposing, of all things, their nipples and belly buttons.

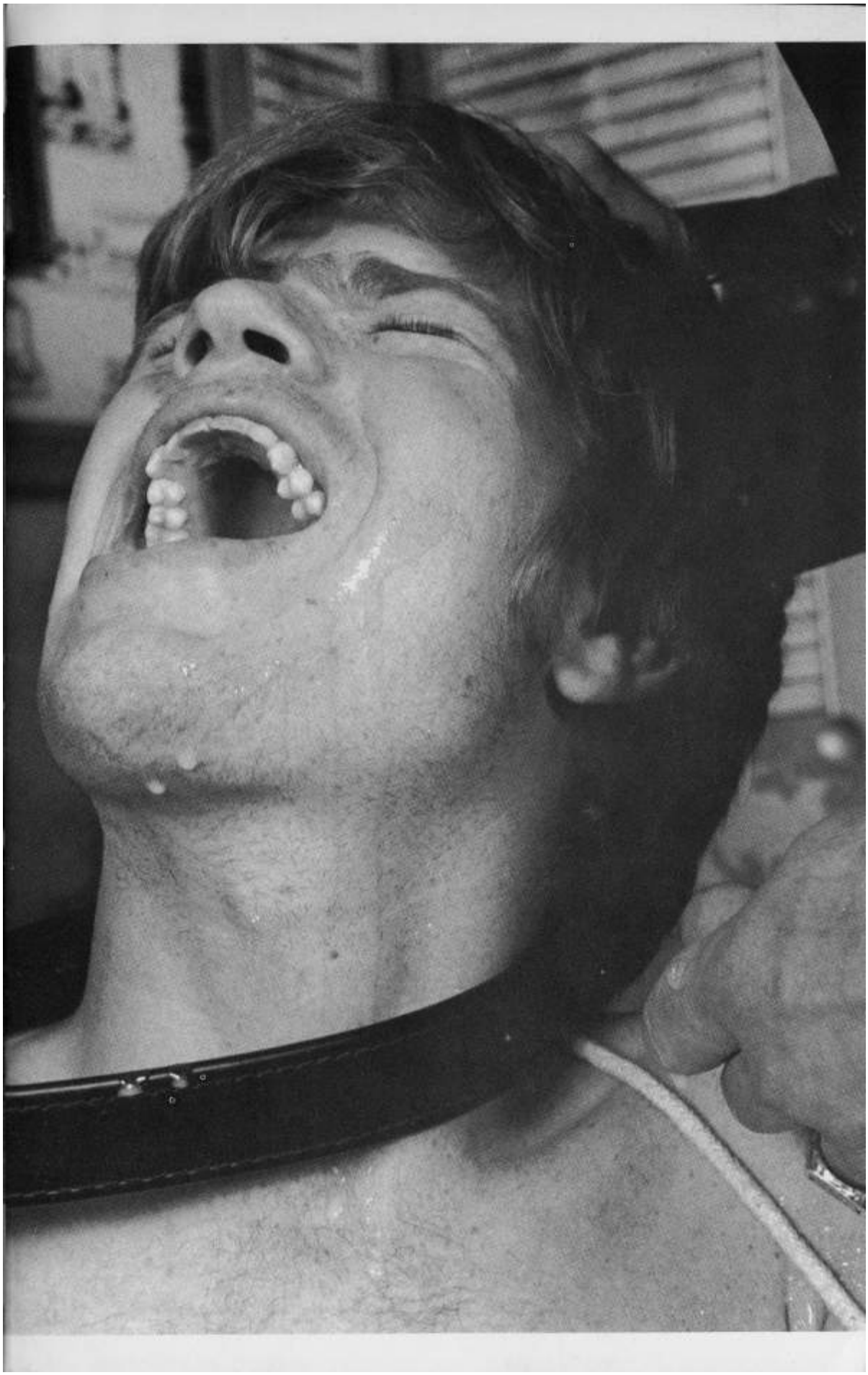
Since then, for the male model, we have gone through shocking bikini type trunks, then posing straps with the buttocks exposed–then, God forbid, a naked frontal view of penis and testicles, to say nothing of pubic hair, was delivered to a hungry, thirsty, avid public.

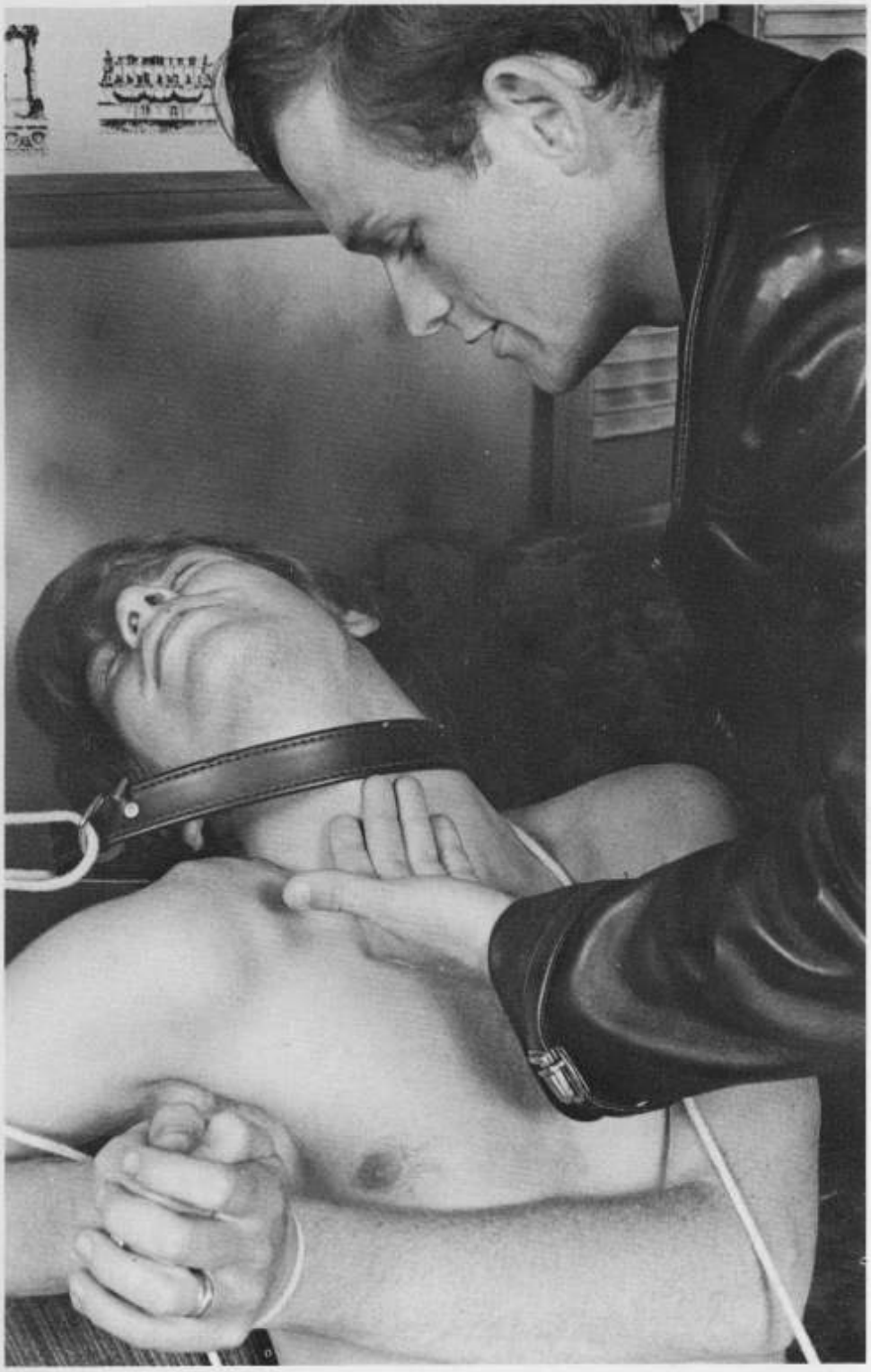
In the last several years, the general public can at last buy many magazines which, for the first time, show the human male body like it is. Dormant, quiescent–then slightly aroused–and then, by God, an honest and truly for real erection–a hard-on! This condition, a natural body function–a clean, reverent, appealing state of emotion, has finally been allowed to be shown. Sure–some of the poses are

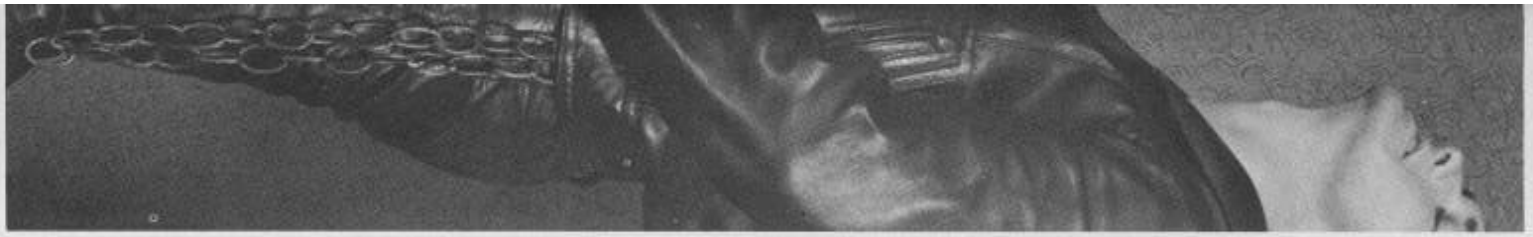
erotic, deliberately sensual, but where is the harm?

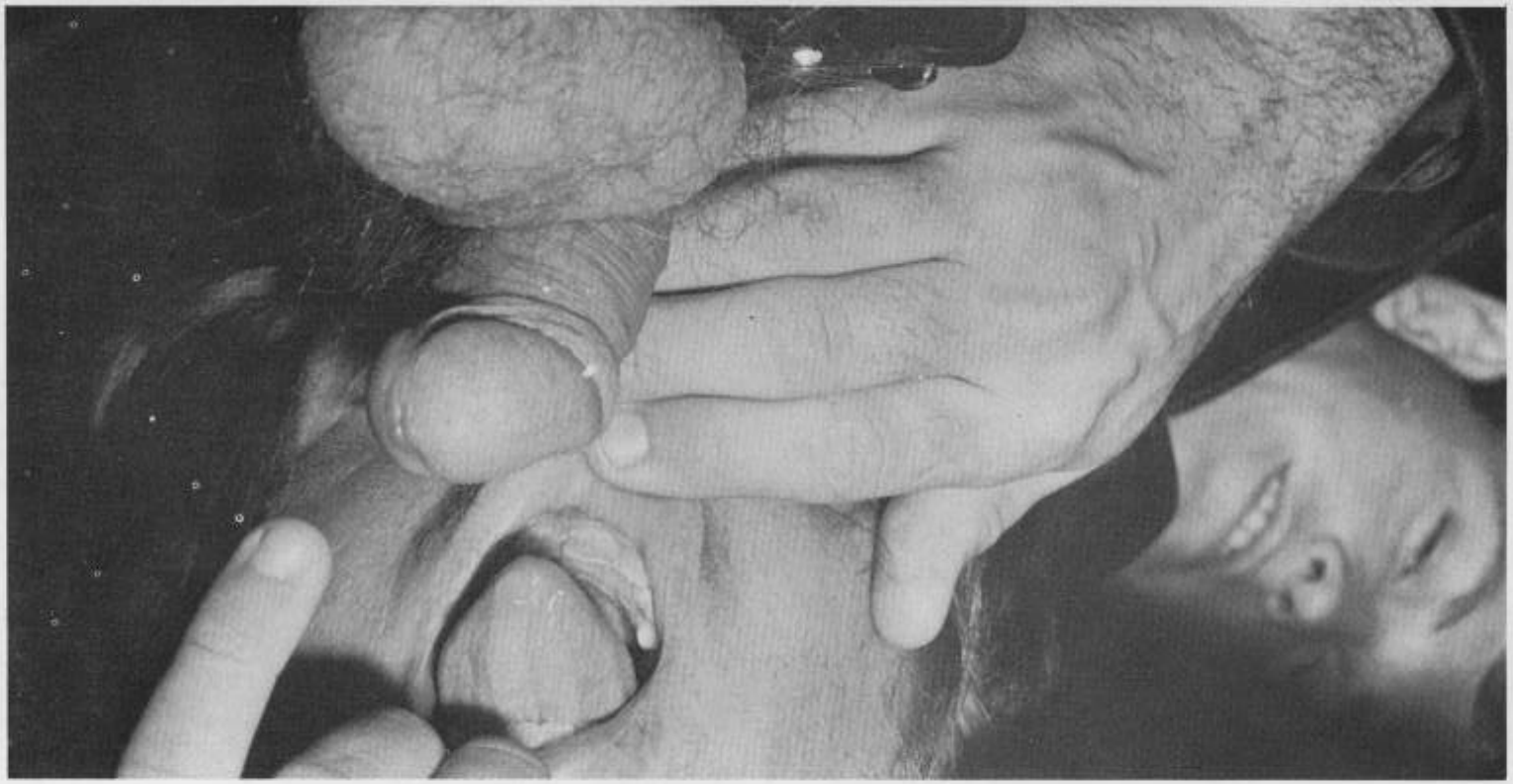
The viewing of another's genitals produces excitement, titillation and lust, but if it were treated as calmly and evenly as the flexing of a bicep or the brushing of one's hair (two other self expressions), the importance would be relegated to the naturalness it should be accorded.

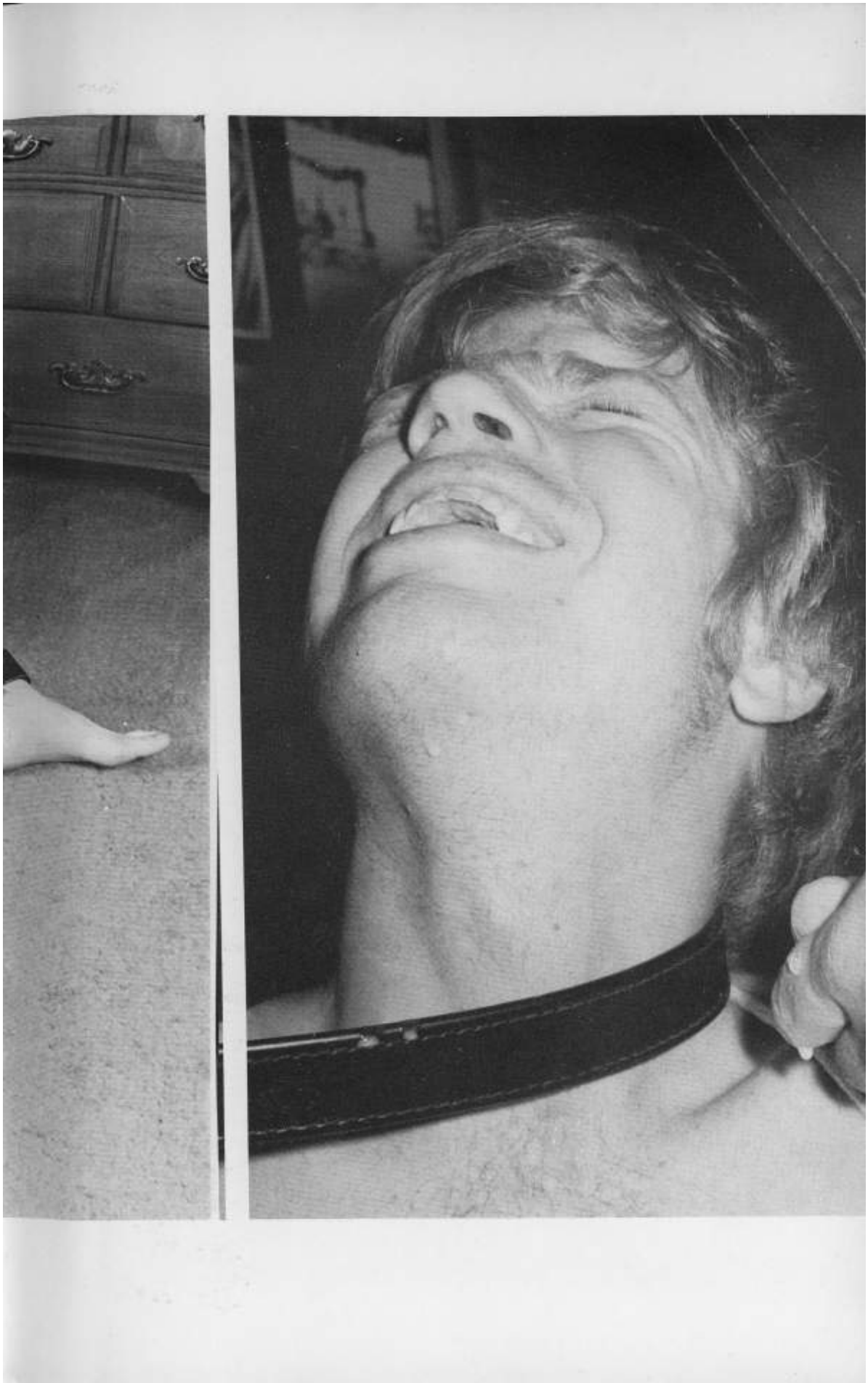
Within the hazy delineations of today's sexual mores, the new generation has established several firm rules; no brassieres—a hang up and a definite detriment to healthy tissues; no jockey shorts—an unwanted and debilitating support to otherwise muscular scrotums with their precious nuts enclosed, and the right to bestow their sexual favors upon the persons of their choice, no matter whom or whichever. Nudity is the great equalizer of the caste system. From my observations, "Vive le peasant!" And to all of you wonderful work-a-day dum-dums, it's better with your clothes off!

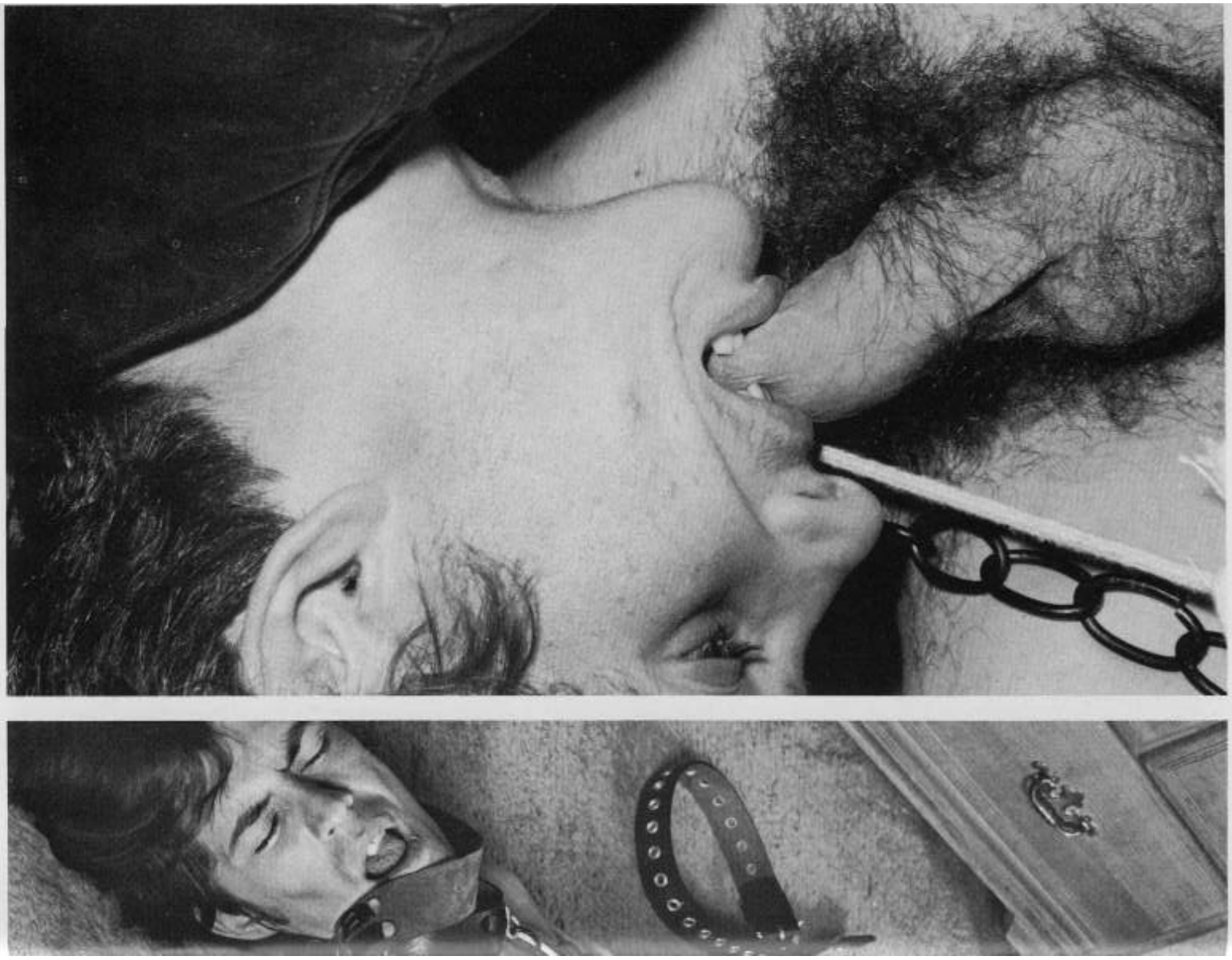


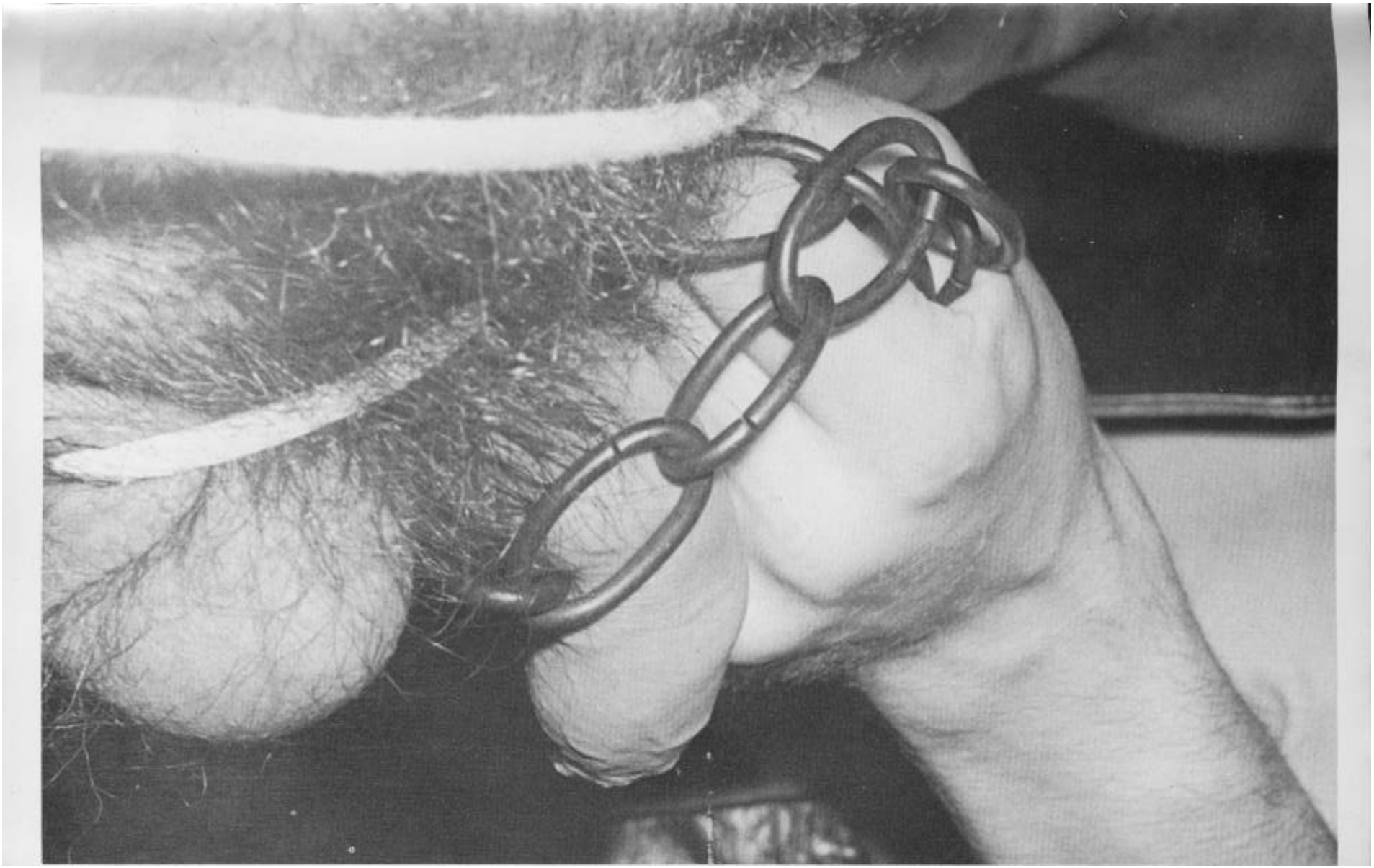


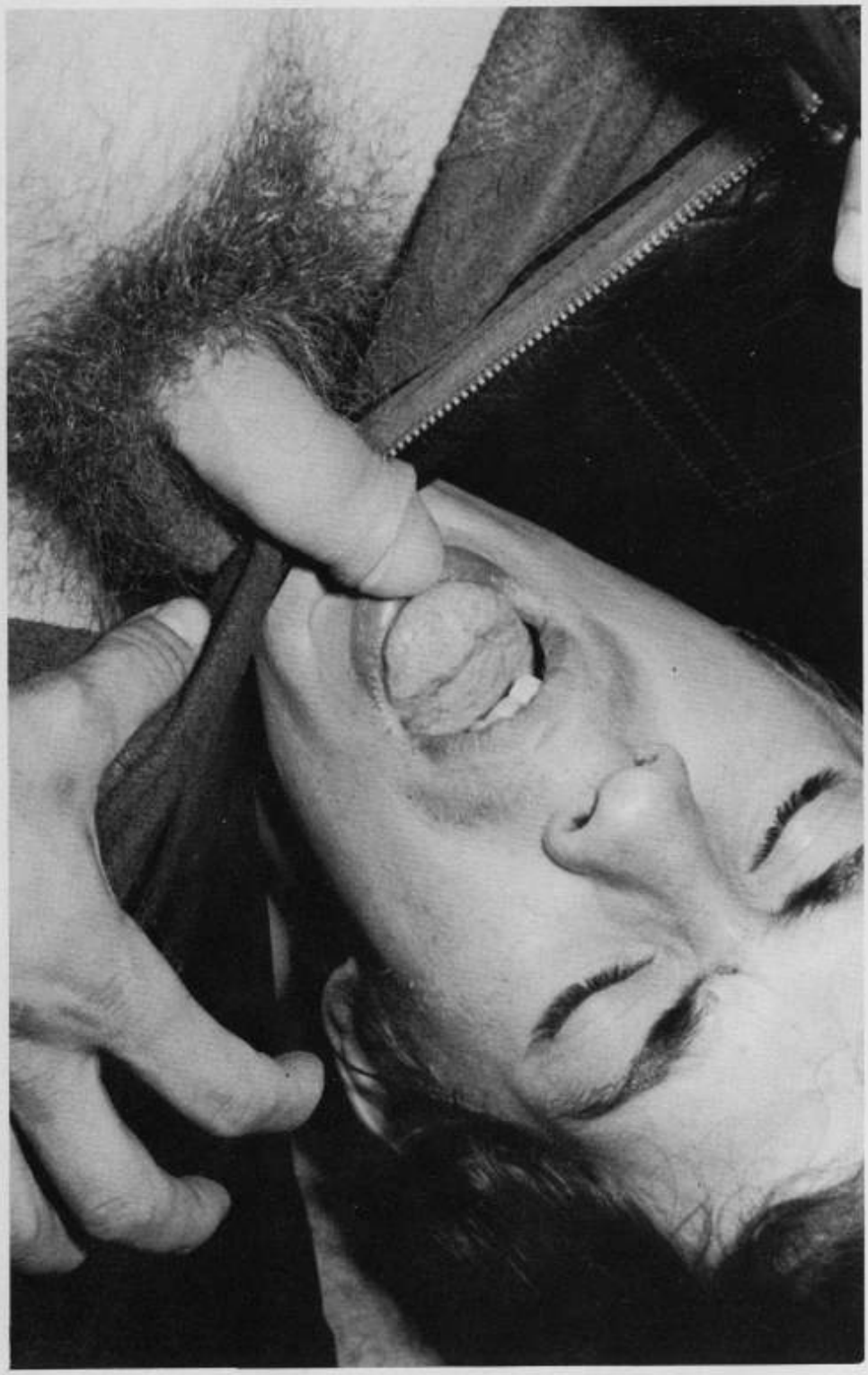


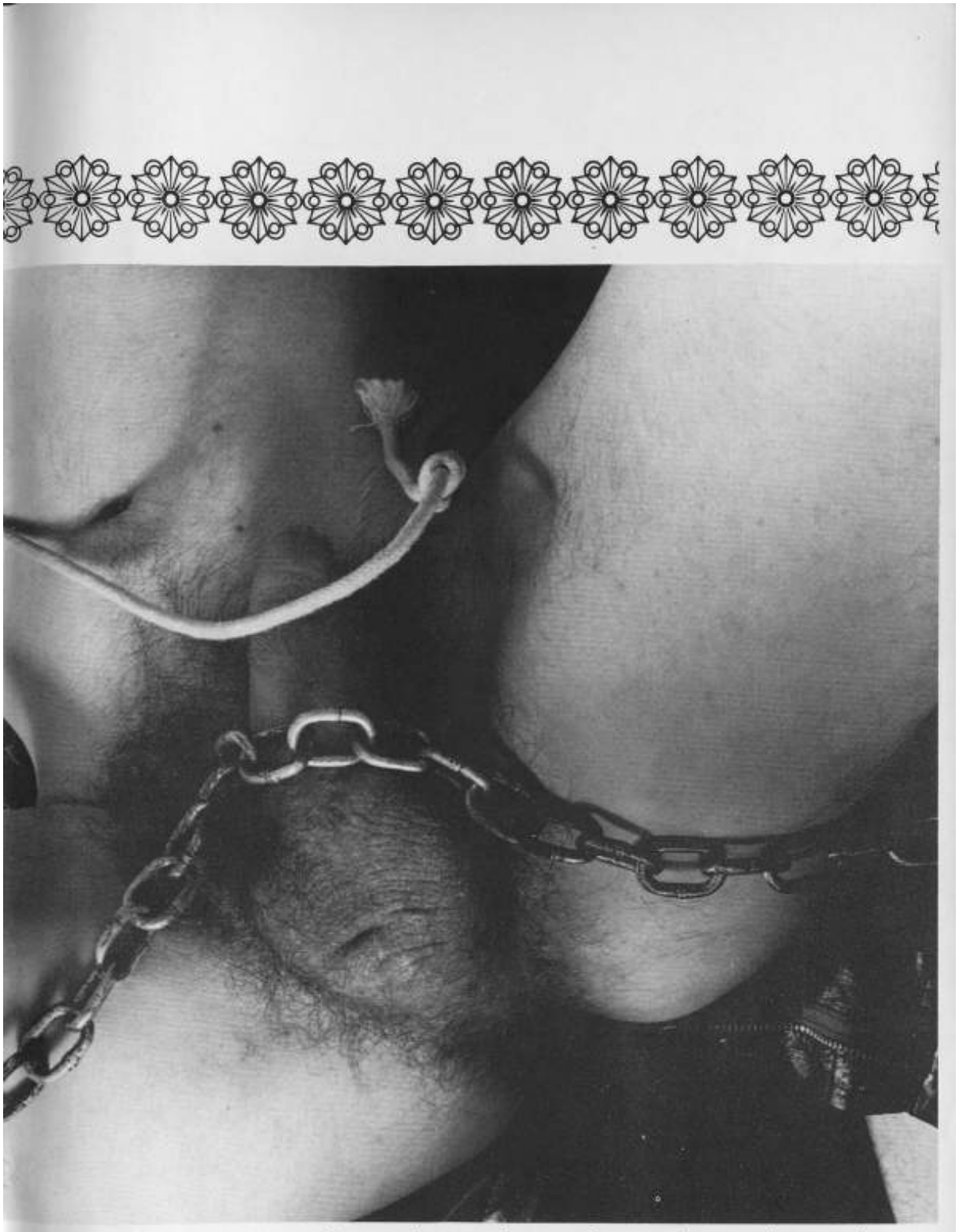












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